

Message Text

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43

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-11 DRC-01 RSC-01 (ADP)W

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R 231101Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0567

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE TRIPOLI 1225

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, LY

SUBJ: TRADE REGULATIONS

REF: STATE 188723

1. ONE ASPECT OF LIBYA'S POPULAR REVOLUTION HAS BEEN ACTIVITIES OF POPULAR COMMITTEES, WHO NOW EFFECTIVELY CONTROL THE OPERATIONS OF TRIPOLI PORT. ONE POPULAR COMMITTEE ACTION HAS BEEN TO ESTABLISH SALE BY AUCTION OF GOODS NOT CLEARED FROM THE PORT IN WHAT THE COMMITTEE BELIEVES A "REASONABLE" PERIOD. WE NOT CERTAIN WHETHER OR NOT SEVEN DAYS IS THE CURRENT DEFINITION OF "REASONABLE". WE CAN, HOWEVER, CONFIRM THAT GOODS ARE CONFISCATED AND SOLD AT AUCTION. RUMORS ARE ALREADY STARTING THAT LIBYAN BUSINESSMEN WHO ORDER GOODS FROM ABROAD CONSPIRE TO DELAY THEIR CLEARANCE. AN ASSOCIATE THEN PURCHASES THE ORDERED GOODS AT AUCTION AND A SUBSTANTIAL DISCOUNT. THE BUSINESSMAN AND ASSOCIATE THEN ARRANGE FOR DELIVERY OF THE GOODS. THE SUPPLIER IS LEFT WITH REDUCED PAYMENT FOR HIS GOODS FROM THE PROCEEDS OF THE AUCTION.

2. THIS PROCEDURE, LIKE MANY OTHERS, POINTS OUT ADVISABILITY FOR MAKING AS MANY TRANSACTIONS AS POSSIBLE WITH LIBYA ON A STRICTLY FOB BASIS, LEAVING CUSTOMS AND PORT CLEARANCE PROBLEMS TO THE LIBYAN PURCHASER.

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